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 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JESUS LOPEZ,	)	Case No. C 08-2071 WHA (PR)
	)	<b>PETITIONER'S REPLY TO</b>
Petitioner,	)	<b>RESPONDENT'S REQUEST FOR</b>
	)	<b>STAY PENDING ISSUANCE OF</b>
v.	)	<b>THE MANDATE IN <u>Hayward</u>.</b>
BEN CURRY, Warden, et al.	)	<b>Judge: The Honorable William Haskell Alsup</b>
	)	
<u>Respondent.</u>	)	

**INTRODUCTION**

After Petitioner Jesus Lopez filed his federal habeas corpus application, this Court issued an order for a response to the petition. On July 14, 2008, Respondent Ben Curry requested a stay pending the disposition of Hayward v. Marshall, 512 F.3d 536 (9th Cir. 2008), hearing en banc granted, and oral arguments occurred June 24, 2008, decision deferred pending Lawrence S154018.

Lopez does not contest a stay, but does oppose a stay pending the en banc decision in Hayward. It could take a year, or more, before the Ninth Circuit issues the en banc decision in Hayward. Lopez, in the alternative, requests that a stay be granted pending the decision in the case of In re Lawrence on habeas corpus, S154018, oral arguments held June 4, 2008.

**ARGUMENT**

It is not lost on Lopez that this, and other federal district courts in the Circuit, are burdened with a number of petitions in an evolving area of law; however, a writ of habeas corpus is to be expedited within a reasonable time to prevent challenging the illegality of detention from being reduced to a "sham" (Yong v. I.N.S., 208 F.3d 1116, 1120 (9th Cir. 2000)). Thus, while a stay may be warranted, any stay should not work to Lopez disadvantage.

**A. A stay is Warranted Pending In Re Lawrence.**

In re Lawrence was argued before the California Supreme Court on June 4, 2008, and a decision is forthcoming no later than September 2, 2008. In that federal courts are bound by interpretation of state law as interpreted by that state's highest court (Gurley v. Rhoden, 421 U.S. 200, 208 (1975), in this case the controlling interpretation of California's parole statutes will be In re Lawrence. The Ninth Circuit will then apply that interpretation to Hayward. In that a decision is due in Lawrence no later than September 2, 2008, a stay should therefore issue only until September 2, 2008, or, as soon as Lawrence is decided and published in the Daily Journal, if sooner.

Moreover, in that postsuitability time credits accrued are to be deducted from Lopez's parole (In re Bush, 161 Cal.App.4th 133, 144-145 (2008)), it is to the state's benefit to have a decision in case at bench as soon as possible, lest Lopez be discharged with no parole if the decision falls in his favor. While discharge would certainly benefit Lopez, it would not benefit the state, defeating "equity" to be obtained.

**B. An Unreasonable Stay Would Prejudice Lopez.**

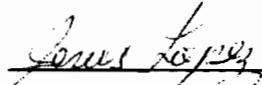
Contrary to the Respondent's argument that the stay he requests "would not unfairly impose any additional or otherwise avoidable hardship on Petitioner" it would do exactly that. Every day Lopez remains in prison is a day he cannot fulfill his duties as a husband, provider to his family, and be present as a father. Lopez has been found Suitable for Parole by the Board of Parole Hearings, has maintain an exemplary record for many years and has been deemed not to be a risk to society by the Board of Parole Hearings and several psychiatric forensic experts. Lopez would respectfully request that the Court not only grant a stay pending the decision in Lawrence, but grant him bail or release him on his own recognizance pending the Court's ultimate decision in his case.

**CONCLUSION**

When the equities are balanced, a stay should be granted only until September 2, 2008, or sooner if the decision in Lawrence should sooner be delivered, and that the respondent file an Answer within thirty (30) days of the Lawrence decision and no further extensions of time be granted. Petitioner therefore requests that the Court exercise its discretion and issue a stay accordingly.

DATED: 7-30-08

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jesus Lopez  
 Jesus Lopez Pro Se

**PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL  
BY PERSON IN STATE CUSTODY  
(C.C.P. §§ 1013(A), 2015,5)**

I, Jesus Lopez, declare:

I am over 18 years of age and I am party to this action. I am a resident of CORRECTIONAL TRAINING FACILITY prison, in the County of Monterrey, State of California. My prison address is:

Jesus Lopez, CDCR #: D-37180  
CORRECTIONAL TRAINING FACILITY  
P.O. BOX 689, CELL #: BW-201-Low  
SOLEDAD, CA 93960-0689.

On July 30, 2008, I served the attached:

Petitioner's Reply to Respondent's Request for stay pending  
Issuance of the Mandate in Hayward

on the parties herein by placing true and correct copies thereof, enclosed in a sealed envelope (verified by prison staff), with postage thereon fully paid, in the United States Mail in a deposit box so provided at the above-named institution in which I am presently confined. The envelope was addressed as follows:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE  
PO BOX 36060  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-9680

CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL  
455 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, SUITE 11000  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-7004

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on July 30, 2008.

Jesus Lopez  
JESUS LOPEZ  
Declarant



WHD

08/05/2008